Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 SIG-02 MMO-04 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-15 EB-08 IO-14 /145 R

DRAFTED BY OFDA/AID:CRHOLMES
APPROVED BY A/AID:JJGILLIGAN; D:;CHRISTOPHER
S/P:SVOGELGESANG

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R 051419Z AUG 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 184049

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SWEL

SUBJECT: REPORTING ON NATURAL DISASTER

FROMACTING SECRETARYAND AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN

- 1. SUMMARY: EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IS AN INTEGRAL ASPECT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. MISSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF DISASTER VICTIMS ARE MET.
- 2. PROBLEM: DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS CAN BE HAMPERED BY: LACK OF INFORMATION ON THE MAGNITUDE OF A DISASTER OR POTENTIAL DISASTER; HESITANCY OF SENIOR US OFFICIALS TO URGE HOST GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO A DISASTER UNCLASSIFIED

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SITUATION; AND POSSIBLE UNWILLINGNESS OF HOST GOVERNMENT TO TAKE TIMELY ACTION.

3. POLICY: MISSIONS MUST DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENCOURAGE DISASTER-AFFLICTED COUNTRIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DISASTER VICTIMS AND, WHERE NECESSARY, TO REQUEST EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. MISSIONS MUST BE SENSITIVE TO EARLY SIGNS OF

POTENTIAL DISASTERS AND SHOULD SUBMIT DETAILED CABLES ON BOTH WARNING SIGNS AND DISASTERS THEMSELVES. IN COUNTRIES

WHERE THERE ARE AID MISSIONS, SKILLED AID PERSONNEL SHOULD DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. AID OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE IS USG LEAD ORGANIZATION IN THIS AREA AND SHOULD RECEIVE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL MISSIONS.

4. CURRENT REVIEW: STRESS ON ALERT REPORTING IS JUST PART OF OVERALL STATE/AID REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTER. POSTS WILL BE INFORMED AS FURTHER PROGRAMS ARE DEVELOPED FOR PRESENTATION IN THE UN, OECD, WORLD BANK, AND ELSEWHERE TO ASSURE MORE EFFECTIVE SHORT-TERM RELIEF AND LONGER-TERM PREPARATION FOR NATURAL DISASTER. CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: REPORTING ON NATURAL DISASTER FROMACTING SECRETARYAND AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN

TAGS: SWEL, XX, US To: ALL POSTS Type: TE

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